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reading out the reference data, which has been stored in the updating process or is the similar reference data, from the storage and setting the readout reference data in the image reading device mounted on the carriage.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 40-44, 49, 51 and 60-72 are pending in this application. Claims 40-43, 49 and 51 have been rejected. Claim 44 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 60-72 have been allowed. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 40, 41, 43, 44, 49, 51, 60, 61 and 63-72. Claims 40, 49, 51, 60, 65 and 69-72 are independent.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 41 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 41 in this regard. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 41, as amended, is now in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.



Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 40, 42-43, 49 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,016,093 to Yoshida ("Yoshida"). Claims 40, 49 and 51 are independent.

The present invention recited in claims 40, 49 and 51 is related to an apparatus having a carriage on which an image reading device is detachably mounted, and is characterized in that (1) reference data, which represents a signal level outputted from an image reading device in a process for obtaining predetermined reference data, is stored in a storage in association with identification information of the image reading device, and (2) the reference data corresponding to identification information obtained from an image reading device mounted on the carriage is read out from the storage and is set in the image reading device mounted on the carriage.

According to the present invention, a reading characteristic, such as white reference, of the image reading device mounted on the carriage is corrected by the set reference data, thus high-quality image data of an original is read by the image reading device.

Further, if the reference data is stored in the image reading device is updatable, it is necessary to install a memory for storing the reference data and a battery for which the memory keeps data to the image reading device. On the other hand, the present invention stores the reference data to the storage of the apparatus, thus a cost and volume of the image reading device can be reduced.

The present invention recited in claims 60, 69 and 71 is, further, characterized in that if the reference data corresponding to the identification information is not stored in the storage, the reference data stored in the storage can be updated by new reference data obtained from the image reading device mounted on the carriage.

The present invention recited in claims 65, 70 and 72 is, further, characterized in that if reference data similar to reference data obtained from the image reading device mounted on the carriage is stored in the storage, the similar reference data is set in the image reading device. On the other hand, if the similar reference data is not stored in the storage, the storage is updated to store the obtained reference data and the obtained and stored reference data is set in the image reading device.

Yoshida teaches that white balance correction data stored in a memory of an exchangeable lens is transmitted to a video camera when the exchangeable lens is mounted to the video camera. However, Yoshida does not teach (1) obtaining of identification information representing the exchangeable lens mounted on the video camera, (2) reading out reference data corresponding to the obtained identification information from a storage of the video camera, or (3) setting the readout reference data in the exchangeable lens mounted on the video camera. Therefore, the difference between Yoshida and the present invention is apparent, thus the present invention is patentable over Yoshida.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 40, 49 and 51 are not anticipated by Yoshida. Further, those claims that depend therefrom are believed to be allowable over Yoshida for at least similar reasons.

Dependent Claims

Applicants do not believe it necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

* * *

For at least the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4393US1. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4393US1. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

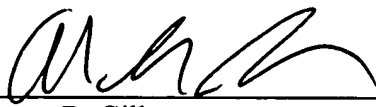
In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:



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